

Jasper

Hardeeville
Today
Hardeeville, SC
Circ. 1910
From Page:
1
5/12/2007
65936



¹³⁵ Senior citizens center should open next year

WILLIAM H. WHITTEN
HARDEEVILLE TODAY

After years of planning and waiting, Hardeeville is getting a new senior citizens' center.

With an agreement that Jasper County will purchase the existing center for \$150,000, with other grant financing in place, and an agreement with Hardeeville to provide a two-acre site, the facility could be open early next year.

The 3,200-square-foot building

is to be constructed to the rear of the city hall complex and will be next to the city's recreation area, which planners tout as a benefit to seniors.

A total of \$610,000 is slated for the project, of which \$500,000 will be in cash and the remainder in in-kind services.

A state "permanent improvement project" through the S.C. Office on Aging adds \$350,000.

The city's donation of the two-acre site is valued at \$30,000 per acre.

The contribution of site preparation, land clearing, grading construction services and other assistance from the city of Hardeeville is valued at \$50,000.

This, along with the \$150,000 cash to be received from Jasper

SEE 'CENTER' ON PAGE 5

Center

From the cover

County for the existing senior citizen's building several blocks away on Main Street, makes the project feasible, said Carl Roache, director of the senior citizens' facilities in Ridgeland and Hardeeville, as well as outreach programs in other areas of the county.

"It looks like we will be able to move forward quickly," said Roache, in an April letter to Jasper County Administrator Andy Fulghum.

The local Council on Aging has been approved for the \$350,000

state grant for some time, but has always been in danger of losing it if other supporting matching funds could not be found.

The Jasper County Council's decision to purchase the existing Hardeeville building for cash makes the project possible, Roache said Wednesday.

Since the new building is already designed — it will be a scaled-down version of the one in Ridgeland — the process will move quickly, with construction bids expected in July or August and actual construction be get under way shortly afterwards.

The state grant allows 18 months for construction, but Roache said it is expected to be finished well before this.